

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
EB-07 COME-00 AID-05 PER-01 MMO-01 A-01 /073 W
-----091245Z 093500 /44
R 091032Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO /SECSTATE WASHDC 3704
SECDEF WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE OSLO 2203

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SV, US, NO
SUBJECT: PARTICIPANTS IN SCIENTIFIC PROJECT ON SVALBARD

REFS: ONR 261748Z APR 77 (B) USDAO OSLO NORWAY 0390 APR 77
(C) OSLO 1540

1. REF A INDICATES THAT ONR CONTRACTOR EMPLOYEES AT LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY PLAN TO VISIT SVALBARD NEXT JULY FOR INITIAL SURVEY TO DETERMINE LOGISTIC SUPPORT CAPABILITIES REQUIRED FOR A FIELD PROJECT NEXT YEAR. WHILE FULL NATURE OF THE PROJECT IS NOT CLEAR TO THE EMBASSY, WE HAVE IN PRINCIPLE NO OBJECTION TO VISIT AND HAVE SO STATED IN REF B. INDEED, AS REITERATED IN EMBASSY'S ANNUAL ASSESSMENT (REF C) WE AND NORWEGIANS BELIEVE IT WILL BE USEFULL TO HAVE U.S. SCIENTIFIC PRESENCE AND ACTIVITIES ON AVALBARD AND THE EMBASSY IS ENCOURAGING SUCH ACTIVITY.
 2. AS DEPT IS AWARE, HOWEVER, POLITICAL SITUATION AT SVALBARD DOES REQUIRE CERTAIN DISCRETION IN AMERICAN ACTIVITIES THERE. OUR ONLY CONCERN WITH THE PROPOSED LOUISIANA PROJECT IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT ITS ONR FUNDING COULD BE MISCONSTRUED
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INTENTIONALLY OR OTHERWISE BY THE SOVIETS AS IMPINGING ON THE DEMILITARIZATION CLAUSE OF THE SVALBARD TREATY. IN THE PAST THE NORWEGIANS HAVE NOT OPPOSED ONR SPONSORED PROJECTS ON SVALBARD AND WE DO NOT EXPECT THEY WOULD THIS TIME. BUT GIVEN THE CURRENT POOR STATE OF NORWEGIAN-SOVIET RELATIONS, THE GON WILL CERTAINLY WANT TO KNOW THE DETAILS OF THE PROJECT INCLUDING THE FUNDING ASPECTS.

3. EMBASSY BELIEVES IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO KNOW EXACTLY
WHAT THE PURPOSE AND PLANS FOR THE ONR SPONSORED PROJECT ARE,
AND TO ENSURE THAT THE PROJECT PARTICIPANTS ARE BRIEFED ON
THE POLITICAL SENSITIVITY OF ACTIVITIES ON THE ARCHIPELAGO.
IN REF B WE HAVE ASKED THAT THE TEAM MEMBERS VISIT EMBASSY SO
THAT WE CAN DISCUSS PROJECT AND SENSITIVE ASPECTS WITH GROUP.
WE HOPE THIS COULD TAKE PLACE BEFORE THEY PROCEED TO SVALBARD.
HOWEVER, IF THAT IS NOT POSSIBLE WE URGE DEPARTMENT TO ENSURE
THAT TEAM IS BRIEFED ON THE SVALBARD ISSUE BEFORE IT LEAVES U.S.
ANDERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSTRUCTION, SCIENTIFIC VISITS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: PFOR, SV, US, NO
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